



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

2006 Fire Weather Operating Plan WFO Rapid City, South Dakota
Local Section Pulled From the 2006 Rocky Mountain Area AOP



Northeast Wyoming – Western South Dakota- Rapid City, SD

Unless otherwise mentioned, it is to be assumed that services provided by NWS Rapid City will follow the regional policies and procedures set forth in the Rocky Mountain Area Fire Weather AOP.

General Information

The National Weather Service in Rapid City is responsible for providing fire weather support for portions of Northeast Wyoming and Western South Dakota. Its area of responsibility covers Northeast Wyoming fire weather zones 259, 297, 298, and 299, and Western South Dakota fire weather zones 260 through 266. The Rapid City office is staffed with 9 meteorologists trained in fire weather forecasting. All fire weather forecasters are trained to produce all fire weather products.

Changes for 2006

None.

Fire Weather Forecasts

The Rapid City office will issue routine Fire Weather Planning Forecasts (FWF) for all of its fire zones by 0700 LT, March 15 through October 31, and both 0700 LT and 1430 LT July 1 through September 30. Requests for an early start or an extension to the FWF product season should be made in writing to:

David M. Carpenter
Meteorologist in Charge
300 East Signal Drive
Rapid City, SD 57701-3800

Spot Forecasts

The Rapid City office issues spot forecasts in support of wildfire and prescribed fire operations within its area of responsibility. Normally, spots forecasts will be provided to you within 30 to 45 minutes of the receipt of the request for wild fire and for prescribed burns when prior notification has been provided.

<http://spot.nws.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/spot/spotmon?site=unr>

Red Flag Warnings / Fire Weather Watches

NWS Rapid City issues Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches as appropriate for the fire weather zones in its fire weather service area.

Smoke Management Forecasts (SMF):

Smoke management forecast elements (transport winds, mixing height, and smoke dispersal) are included in the Fire Weather Planning Forecasts (FWF).

NFDRS Forecasts

National fire danger rating system trend forecasts are routinely issued seven days a week from May 1st to November 1st of each year as observations are provided by the Land Management Agencies. The trend forecasts shall be prepared by 1600 each afternoon. Requests for spot forecasts in the afternoon may delay the issuance of the trend forecasts, as spot forecasts shall take priority over the trend forecasts.

IMET Services:

The Rapid City office does not have a trained IMET.

Training Services:

Fire Meteorologists are available for all training requests. Please send a letter to the Rapid City NWS Office requesting these services with the time, date, and place of the training.

David M. Carpenter
Meteorologist in Charge
300 East Signal Drive
Rapid City, SD 57701-3800

Additional Information:

The Rapid City office maintains a Fire Weather Page on its web site home page. This page contains links to fire weather planning forecasts (FWF), Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Watch (RFW), Spot Forecasts, South Dakota Grassland Fire Danger, the Annual Operating Plan, and other fire weather related information. A clickable map is provided to obtain the narrative FWF for each Fire Zone. Simply click on the map within the region of interest. To go directly to the Rapid City fire weather web site, use the following URL:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/unr/firewx/>

BACK UP:

Primary back up of the Rapid City office for all Fire Weather Products will be done by the North Platte NWS office, and the Cheyenne NWS office as a secondary back up office. Contact numbers for these offices can be found in the main body of the Rocky Mountain Area Fire Weather AOP.